

CHAPTER II

ANNEXING NEW AREAS

The survival and growth of a municipality depends upon periodical expansion of its boundaries to include development in its fringes and contiguous to the corporate limits. The growth and development of territory in the fringe of the city can be attributed primarily to the advantage derived from industry, business and other facilities located within the municipality. The health, safety, welfare and prosperity of the entire community requires that such adjacent territory be incorporated and share in the advantages offered by the city and at the same time participate in the cost of city operations.

"Municipal officials will also recognize that annexation is an integral part of the overall planning process, a tool to be used in guiding and ensuring orderly growth and development. Every city and town should develop a definite annexation policy and a continuing annexation program within the framework of its overall plan of development." /1

On January 27, 1961, the Salisbury City Council at its regular meeting adopted an annexation ordinance extending the old city limits, to include three new areas as of February 1, 1961. These are the Meadowbrook-Milford Hills section, the Oakland section and the Country Club section. This report identifies these areas and sets forth the legal requirements on which annexation procedures were based.

At this time, there are three different legal methods by which a city of more than 5,000 persons may annex adjoining urbanized areas. A city may choose to annex an area (1) by an election of the people in the area proposed to be annexed, (2) by petition of all the owners of real property within the area proposed to be annexed or (3) by meeting the statutory standards for annexation. Salisbury chose to annex the three different urbanized areas on its boundaries by the latter method.

1/ John T. Morrissey, "Mechanics of Annexation for Municipalities of 5,000 or More" report No. 99, North Carolina League of Municipalities, Raleigh, Feb., 1960.